

APG fires up Community Awareness Day



Dressed in firefighting gear, APG Garrison commander Col. John T. Wright puts out a kitchen fire in the APG Fire Department's fire prevention mobile unit during the installation's first Community Awareness Day Oct. 15.

Rebecca J. Chisholm and Yvonne Johnson
APG News

The first garrison wide Community Awareness day was held Oct. 15 with a wealth of displays, exhibits, events and participants.

A plethora of organizations came together to provide entertainment and education in the theme of "Kitchen Safety" for young and old attendees, including the APG Fire and Police departments; Army Substance Abuse Program office; Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Army Community Service and Child and Youth services.

Combining a number of events that happen on a yearly basis, Community Awareness Day took the place of festivals to celebrate Crime Prevention Month, Fire Safety Week, CYS Fest and the Red Ribbon Campaign.

Beginning with a Drug Free Fun Run, sponsored by the Army Substance Abuse Program, the day was filled with demonstrations, visitors, activities and games.

Throughout the day, hotdogs and drinks were served to all. At noon, the police department celebrated "McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog's" 25th anniversary with cake for everyone.

The day's major events included a martial arts demonstration; an auto rescue, an auto fire, two kitchen fires and a Christmas tree fire demonstration by the APG Fire Department; a SWAT team demo; a trench rescue put on by Harford County's Trench Rescue Squad and a free movie, "March of the Penguins," at the Post Theater.

Grand Master Irving Soto, an APG police officer and Jujitsu instructor, hosted the martial arts demonstration assisted by his long-



Photo by REBECCA J. CHISHOLM
"Nothing Up My Sleeve's" Spongebob Squarepants entertains attendees.

Photo by HOWARD KASH
Tyler Kash, 3, son of Howard Kash, a computer scientist at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, gets first-hand soccer instruction from Baltimore Blast player Billy Nelson.



Photo by REBECCA J. CHISHOLM
"Nothing Up My Sleeve's" stil walker towers over the other entertainment.



Photo by REBECCA J. CHISHOLM
The APG fire department's crew disassembles a car during the auto extraction demo.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
APG firefighters use teamwork to extinguish a fire during the Auto Fire Demonstration.



Photo by REBECCA J. CHISHOLM
The APG Garrison's Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby saws the windshield to remove it during the vehicle extraction demonstration.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Flames leap from a burning Christmas tree ignited by firefighters to demonstrate how easily un-watered trees can become fire hazards.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby puts out the fire.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON
Grandmaster Irving Soto of the APG Police breaks wooden boards with his elbow, then with his fist, as his longtime student Stephen Taylor holds them steady and demonstrates jump techniques during the martial arts demonstration.